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Earth First! ACTION UPDATE

edited by Michael Howard

NUMBER 11

JULY 1994

30P

Eco-police in a r r e s t i n g roads action

Non Violent Direct Action has broken out near Bamber Bridge in Lancashire. Ancient woodland which boasts delightful 200 year old beeches will be trashed for the £142m M66 extension (the most expensive road in the current roads programme). The road will cut across Cauden Valley Nature Park and 12 miles of Lancashire greenbelt. As we go to press, 17 tree houses are still standing although clearance is going on around them. A 120 year old compulsorily purchased farmhouse, one of two squats, has recently been destroyed. In its first life it was a police station, and protesters painted its external walls green with a black and white chequered band. This 'eco-police station' was used as an information centre before being securely barricaded with false walls, barrels etc, ready for eviction. Underground police cells were brought back into use as protesters hollowed out the foundations in the name of high security (high risk?) lock up points. The 2 protesters, still attached to their barrel, were eventually glacially removed from their barrow 7 hours into the eviction.

More on page 10

MAHOGONE-Y !!

Mahogany items 'reclaimed' from department stores and timber companies around Britain were taken to the Houses of Parliament at 10.45 am on Wednesday 18th June to be shown to the Press, including TV Globo from Brazil's main national channel, and the reason for the action was explained.

MPs Cynog Dafis, Ken Livingstone and Llew Dafis were present (Siron Hughes sent apologies and message of support as he was speaking in the House). They accompanied CRSP-O seizure units with their mahogany items to the Attorney General's office (the highest law authority in the country).

The office refused entrance to all but one MP. Cynog Dafis spent ten minutes in discussions with The Attorney General and handed over a letter requesting him to look into the sale of stolen property in British stores. He said that he would make his position clear in a written response.

CRSP-O groups successfully removed items believed to be made from mahogany illegally logged on indigenous lands in Brazil from stores and importers throughout the country. The list of stolen property is as follows:

- Birmingham - 1 bedside table from Reckham's,
- Leicester - 1 set of 3 barometer spinners from B & Q Depot, London -
- 1 mahogany tray from Harrods, Manchester -
- 1 bedside table from John Lewis, Norwich -
- 2 barometers, 1 thermometer, 1 standard lamp stand, 2 bedside lamp stands from Bonds, Oxford -
- 2 planks of mahogany labelled 'PERACHI' from Jewsons.

... north east p2



Left:
The M66 campaign has been an inspiration to locals and EFlers of all ages

ACTION! ACTION! ACTION! ACTION!

M65
Blackburn
8th July
this page

M11+Bath+
Wymondham
still raging
pp 9 + 10

World Bank
13th July
see page 7

**Criminal
Justice Bill**
ongoing
see back page

MAHOGONE-Y...from p1

PERACH, MAGINCO and IMPAR are 3 companies which have recently had injunctions served on them to prevent them from continuing illegal logging on Indigenous Indian lands. Their logging practices open up vast areas of otherwise commercially unusable forest, bringing first contact to remote tribes. These people have no relationship to any diseases and many are considered if they try to resist the destruction of their homes and lands.

A letter from the Crown Prosecution Service to the CRISPO officers advised them to "report to the police" if they had evidence of a criminal offence. After nearly a year of ethical shoplifting around the country, where the police have been given evidence that illegally attracted mahogany is being imported and sold in British stores, they have refused to investigate, or even give any reason for their refusal, and simply return the stolen timber to the thieves.

The items were left at the Attorney General's office with a note that they should be returned to the rightful owners i.e. the Senekas Indians. Police were seen to remove them. Further information from CRISPO offices 0603 631007

McLibel - McLiars

Attempts by McDonalds to silence its critics and turn the world into a huge burger joint continue. McProfits are using 2 unemployed people for libel on the basis that they attended meetings and distributed a leaflet about their record on health, employment, the environment etc. The new trial date is 27th June, High Court, London, and it could last for up to 4 months.

The judiciary have decided that the issues are too complex for a jury, so were good-bys to a fair trial. However, it is an unprecedented opportunity to spread the truth about the world's largest cow mangers. The trial will hear from hundreds of witnesses on the following subjects: Packaging, nutrition, advertising, animals, environment, employment, pollution, and the defendants.

Two new developments. 1) An MP has put down an early day motion about the case. This means that under parliamentary privilege any libellous allegations can be quoted without any fear of legal action (check this with London Greenpeace). 2) On the 27th May, Dave and Helen issued a counter claim against McD's for libel, following a leaflet which accused them of lying. This means that McD's will have to prove their claims in court. (Oh dear)

Money is desperately needed to pay for defence tribunals, no legal aid is available.

Meanwhile please carry on campaigning to prevent the cover up.

Leaflets from 0602 5982666, £12 for 1000

Meetings every Thursday evening at London Greenpeace

High Court picket June 27th, 9.30am.

World anti McDonalds Free Speech Day October 15th/16th

McLibel office (from June 27th) 071 7131269

We can't depend on the media or the legal system, take the truth and spread it ourselves.

Narmada

The Narmada dam (India) will flood 126 miles of forest and farmland and displace 350,000 people. Western taxpayers were funding the dam through the World Bank, but in March 93 the Bank pulled out of the \$11.4 billion project due to massive local and international resistance. The UK's Overseas Development Agency is, however, still involved. The movement has left in Narmada, and 1600 evictions are still threatened, but resistance is strong.

On 17th May, a solidarity action at the Indian High Commission in London united people from Narmada & Mill against evictions. Of the 40 people at the action, 5 entered the building, and 1 made it to the balcony before being rapidly removed. 17 riot vans were quickly in attendance, Aldwych Rd was cordoned off and the 22 people who refused to leave were arrested.

No charges were made.

Unguided Tour of Sizewell

On June 1st, 14 people scaled the fence at Sizewell B and headed for the reactor. They walked through the contractor's site and up to a security camera, monitor and guard, who was asleep, and woke him up (so that they could wave to him). Most of the people then went into the portacabins and stayed there. 2 of the protesters climbed another fence and made it into the reactor building and down into the control room (pressing all the buttons 717) with no security or alarms going off even though they deliberately pulled a fire tripartite in a moment of boredom. They stayed in the main control room for over an hour until one of them decided to get up onto the gantry doors of the reactor. (Nuclear Electric deny this, well, they would...)

The police eventually caught 2 protesters, and took the name of one of the protesters as Or Myhr from the Freedom Institute in Berlin even though he kept slipping between a German accent and a Norfolk accent. They re-entered the site later in the day.

The anti-nuclear protesters occupied the nuclear site for eleven hours, unfurling banners and letting off red smoke bombs. There was, according to the papers, no attempt by police or security to eject the protesters, there were also no arrests.

It seems that they are delivering two rods a week to the site even though it has not yet got the go ahead...hmm...



Prisoner Support

For release prisoners

1. Graham Lewis NK3618, HMP Pentonville, Calcutt Rd London N16 (Due for release 22/6/94)
2. John Bount #24315-013, FPC Box 376, PO Box 2680, Jessup, GA 31548 USA
3. Mark Davis #23106-008, Federal Prison Camp, PO Box 1000, Boron, CA 93596, USA
4. Michael Carter, Flathhead County Detention Centre 800 S Main, Kalspell, MT 56601, USA
5. Peg Miller #23118-008, Federal Prison Camp, 37900 N 45th Ave, Dept 1785, Phoenix, AZ 85027, USA

Animal rights prisoners

1. Alison McKee, B2370, HMP Aulham Grange, Aulham Richard, York, YO2 3PT,
2. Angie Hamp, TW1887, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London, N7 9NU
3. Annette Tibbles, TT2216, HMP Holloway, Parkhurst Road, Holloway, London, N7 9NU
4. Darren Thurston, A-E #13, Calgary Correctional Centre, Box 3280, Station B, Calgary, A5, T2M 4L5, Canada
5. David Barbarash, 6660 104th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5H 4B5, Canada
6. Deborah Stout, Spokane County Jail, West 1100 Mallon, Spokane, WA 99260, USA
6. Keith Mann, EE3588, HMP Manchester, 1 Southall St, Strangeways, Manchester, M40 5AH
7. Kim Trimvise, Spokane County Jail, West 1100 Mallon, Spokane, WA 99260, USA
8. Max Walton, B2477, HMP Haverigg, Haverigg Camp, Milnes, Cumbria, LA16 4NA
9. Terry Halsey, EP0781, HMP Risley, Warrington Rd, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire, WA3 6DT

Corporate Watch

As reported in AU10, at the last EF! Gathering, EF'ers made a commitment to researching companies and what they are doing with a view to helping sustained, informed direct action campaigns against them. A gathering for those interested has been arranged, in Oxford, on the 8th July. Anyone who has any interest in this should contact Oxford EF! - 0865-282706. We need more women (interested as, at present, those committed are mainly male).

GROUP 4 TRESPASS

On June 12th, Birmingham EFF held a picnic trespass at their Training HQ. 17 people associated about private police forces, attempted to gain access to the building. There may have been an informer involved somewhere, because 55 guards were waiting to obstruct the EFFers. A public footpath was blocked by three jelly men in yellow jackets. (Perhaps illegal? Ed.) The picketers were very friendly, asking Group 4 if they liked to play football or football, but not one of them responded in any way whatsoever. After entering one-sided negotiations, the picnic was then held on the site, on top of a large purple EFF banner. After this, the picketers were asked to leave. On the way out, a couple of guards said privately that they supported the action. It was then on to a legal picnic area, where a game of football was played, watched by a crowd of 2 riot vans, an unmarked police car and a squad car. The women's team comprehensively beat the men's in the match, apparently. The EFF pickets and related vehicles were then followed by several police cars. It was decided to go on a strategic highway test, potentially this breaks the Carriage Act. The result of the action: prohibition for future dialogue with Group 4, particularly with reference to the Criminal Justice Bill, and the consumption of various outdoor commodities. Contact: 431 449 4442.

WOMENS' ACTION AT WYMONDHAM.

On June 1st a group of around 18 women disrupted work on the 5.4 mile Wyomondham/Bessingthorpe bypass route. The action was intended to be non-confrontational. The women approached a site near where the road breaks away from the existing A11 carrying banners, then sat down to have a picnic amidst the road building. This was the second all women action at Wyomondham, where the Lizard Tribe have had a permanent camp to oppose the road since February. The first action passed off very successfully, workmen were approached with flowers and asked to talk about the issues surrounding the road. Work was successfully halted for more than two hours without anyone actually occupying machinery and workers were happy to talk with the women about why they were using direct action to protest against the bypass. A second action was meant to pass off in the same way, but when the picnic clothes were spread out additional security guards were called to the site and began forcibly removing the women. The decision was then reached to attempt to re-enter the site. The action continued for around 4 hours. Some women climbed on machinery but were carried off site by security guards and contractors. A number sustained minor injuries, mainly cuts and bruises. While this was happening a number of machines continued to operate around the group, continuing health and safety regulations.

PRIME MINISTER MEETS EFF ACTIVISTS.

Later the same day, the women's group went to greet John Major as he visited the Lotus car factory of Hethel, Norfolk. Activists assembled at the entrance to the plant. One woman climbed on top of a security perimeter, then unfurled a banner calling for an end to road building and investment in public transport. She was removed by the police before the prime minister's car arrived. A number of workers left the factory to watch the action. Women were carried off the driveway to allow Major's entourage to pass. The local press reported the event as the PM's first encounter with direct action. Only ONE person on the camp all the time. Camp recently attacked by vandals. Mobile phone stolen. Action still happening, including some eye cream sites. As many people as possible, avoid: 0403 484753.

Cafe 1 : Cars 0

The Oxford is Choking campaigners, in co-operation with Oxford Fell, staged a 'refreshingly new form of protest in the heart of Oxford on 18th June, in the middle of the historic Broad Street. The local council, presented with one of Oxford's most beautiful street spaces, kindly asked to the parents of pleasure, leisure and convenience, instead maintain the ancient Broad Street as a car park! Having had little success convincing the local council that there may be more sensitive ways of using public space, protesters marched through the heart of Oxford, turned into Broad Street, lastly into a cafe of 10 tables and 26 chairs materialised in the middle of the street offering tea, coffee, juice, cakes, the obligatory vase of roses, and full table service. At this point the police gave up any hope of controlling events and allowed the cafe to remain open serving pedestrians and members of the public for the rest of the afternoon so cars had to queue past on either side. Cafe society - 1 : Car Culture - 0

Target: 'men in suits'

Increasingly arrogant EFFers there is a belief that the decision makers should be targeted for action more rather than endless protesters with workers who talk at length about their mortgages. Thus the 'Men in Suits' Campaign - three particularly successful attempts at belittling these creaking men with big egos. On June 18th Roads Minister Robert Key came in Bristol at the launch of Green Transport Week. Approximately 200 protesters had the fortunate experience of meeting this great man, and were so excited at this that they all tried to converse with him at the same time during his speech. Coincidentally they were all repeatedly saying something like "You are scum. You are killing our children." The ministers speech was inaudible, especially after someone (I think) the microphone. A crowd of 1000 people from Salisbury Hill was produced and the objective was to place this on Bob's fat head. However, the heavy police cordon remained just about in fact and as it was breached at the stage. The whole event was a fiasco and brought Mr. Key one step nearer to receiving his P45 in any forthcoming reshuffle. John MacGregor, Transport Minister, another prime candidate for redundancy, also had visitors lately. He was attending a 1970s era head conference on European Road-building at the Hotel Intercontinental in London (15/6/94). Road Alert were joined for this action by Greenpeace, who made their debut in transport direct actions in great style. The event was infiltrated by 'press', and MacGregor's speech was drowned out by these 'journalists' with James Bond style briefcases with built-in tape recorders and amplifiers which played loud extracts of traffic radio. The activists and briefcases were gradually removed one by one. Apparently the meeting was well and truly treated and Road Alert have been removed from MacGregor's Christmas card list.

Lloyd's and Midland Bank (LAMB) have been showing their 'friends' at Home Koro and Shanghai Bank HSBC. To quote the Financial Times "The annual shareholders' meeting of HSBC Holdings, the parent company of Midland Bank was yesterday held amid financial times as a student protester handcuffed himself to the chair occupied by Sir Keith Watson, the bank's chief executive. The meeting was disrupted as the student was carried out of the Berkeley Hall in London. Guards had to cut another student free from a microphone cable next to Sir William Purves, HSBC's chairman, and pull him from the stage along with others. The meeting resumed after being halted for 10 minutes." Sir William is misquoted as saying his four children "have me in no doubt the importance of the environment, the world's environment has been severely damaged and continues to be, and we take a keen interest in ensuring that it stays that way. I need children to tell me that, so I've had any sixth year I ever had beaten out of me at public school, a damn hard beating never did me any harm." For more information contact LAMB on 061-274-4885.

Blockade against Hydro-Quebec's SM-III Project

29th May "We the Innu traditionalists have begun blockading the access road leading to the construction site of Hydro-Quebec's Sainte-Marguerite III (SM-III) hydroelectric project. We are challenging the complete disregard of our right to self-determination on our lands. Hydro-Quebec (H-Q) is coming to carry out the systematic destruction of the cultural, spiritual and socio-economic basis of the Innu Nation.

The government and H-Q are planning to build 3 large hydroelectric projects on Innu land. This project only serves as a political campaign tactic for the present Quebec provincial government that is facing an upcoming election. No one needs this mega-development project. Our biodiverse territory is threatened and the electricity produced will be exported to the US. The project will divert two tributaries of the Mobile River into a giant reservoir, endangering the salmon of the Mobile River on which we depend.

We intend to maintain a Peace Camp and to engage in non-violent direct action until the governments of Quebec and Canada cancel their authorization of the SM-III project. The Coalition for Nihilism denounces the inaction of the Canadian Government which has failed to assume its constitutional and international responsibilities towards the Innu and their land, Nihilism. The Quebec government's own environmental public hearing board published a report in June of 1993 which concluded that the SM-III project should be rejected. This has subsequently been ignored by both Canadian and Quebec governments."

On 4th June 30 protesters occupied H-Q's office in Montreal. So far, 12% of the adult Innu population of Mani-Uttuham have been charged in Quebec courts for their opposition to SM-III. More arrests are imminent. The Coalition for Nihilism intends to carry out an international boycott campaign of H-Q. Support groups in Quebec, Canada and the US will hold demonstrations to show their firm opposition to the SM-III project.

In March, the peace camp was visited by workers from the road-widening crew in charge of clearing the forest who threatened to plough through the blockade. The response of Innu Mark Volant was simple, direct and committed: "If you plough through the blockade, the bridge will be burned and I will drown myself in gasoline and burn my own self. You are responsible for my life."

STOP PRESS!!

The blockade fell in the early hours of June 14. Reports say that about 12 Innu traditionalists along with three U.S. observers were arrested.

Welsh Barrage Leak

The £2m Cardiff Bay Barrage will cause the first wholesale destruction of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and set a dangerous precedent for other 'developments'. Salt-water mud flats, 'ugly and discourage investment in the area', will be transformed into a 'freshwater' lake for watersports. This will 'maximize the appeal to industry and business to re-locate to the Bay', though the quality of the water will be so poor that immersion sports will not be allowed: Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (CBDC) have already admitted that any humans coming into contact with the water will require instant hospital treatment. Blue-green algae will form on the lake killing fish and birds and providing an ideal environment for riddges to breed. The Barrage will further degrade the rivers Taff and Ely, with their already high levels of sewage and phosphate pollution, creating a highly toxic environment. Groundwater levels will be affected so that the homes of both birds and humans will be destroyed. The area was proposed as a 'Special Protection Area' in 1981, but this has never happened.

Michael Boyce, chairman of the CBDC, responsible for the building of the barrage, categorically stated that there was no substantial opposition to the barrage. He was proved wrong when 30 odd members of Cardiff E! entered CBDC's offices on June 19th. By the end of the occupation, E! had managed to secure a meeting with members of CBDC. The next day, almost 1000 people marched around the bay. The construction (Costain and Balfour Beatty) officially started on May 25th so it may begin at any time and Cardiff E! need extra bodies. Sign the Cardiff FoE pledge below.

SAVE CARDIFF BAY PLEDGE

"If the CBDC attempts to build the Barrage we will be there to save the Bay by lawful means. In the meantime we would like to be kept informed of developments" Name _____ Address _____ Tel. no. _____ Signature _____

Send to: Cardiff FoE, 30 Windway Road, Victoria Park, Cardiff, CF5 1AG

The Nuclear Fight Back Grows

Activists from all over Britain smash Nuclear Claspix a blow - the first of many to come. Nuclear plants at Sellafield, Torness, Hinkley Point, Humberston & Dungeness, were all targeted around March 4th 1994, as Greenpeace and Lancashire County Council lost West High Court Challenge.

Torness: 40 people blocked the main entrance at the 7am shift change for 2 hours. Activists chained themselves together across the road with steel tubes. Workers trying to get out drove at protesters but hastily most were able to release themselves. They left a side gate open to allow angry workers out. Once the police arrived, the protesters decided to block the side gate as well by chaining it closed. As a protester tried to do this, a Scottish Nuclear security guard in a Landrover drove straight into the gate which hit the protester, sending him 10ft in the air. He was taken to hospital - he is now OK but suffered bruising to his arm and chest. Hinkley Point: 40 people blocked the main entrance. Some chained themselves to the gate with U locks. A back entrance into the station was left open for cars. At the 2pm shift change a group of protesters went and shut the back gate entrance, causing complete chaos. The police arrived to cut open one of the gates. As the police moved away, protesters got underneath the van, took it on, and blocked the entrance for another 1 1/2 hours. Several protesters got into the site without being stopped.

Sellafield: 20 protesters marched up to Sellafield. All were in white suits with a grim reaper leading the way.

Humberston: Through the Scottish Coalition Against a Radioactive Environment, 30 people closed the station for 2 hours during the 7am shift change causing a gridlock and 2 mile tailback. The Station Manager was very unhappy. 3 teams blocked various routes and gates. 5 people chained themselves to a gate. 5 chained themselves to a scaffolding pole across one road. 5 chained together with steel tubes across another access road. All gates were secured with anchor chains. A breakaway group of about 50 workers in their cars got stuck in mud trying to head over as a field to another entrance, however, this too had been secured with chains. It took them 2 hours to get out. All protesters were wearing black suits and abolition masks. The protest ended when Scottish Nuclear and the police eventually cut through the chains on a second entrance.

Dungeness (Kent): 20 people blocked the main entrance (and the visitor centre) at the shift change. 4 people were chained to 5 concrete barrels which were chained to other protesters and the gate. Protesters stayed put for 8 hours.

CUERDENIA RISING

Roads News.

LEADENHAM: Actions in progress, but as always, more hands needed. Nets: EF: 0402 851235 or Rainbow Centre: 8402 88666.

NEWBURY: Private landowners started cutting down trees before the 'dozers arrive. 100 oaks already cut. Work regularly stopped. Nesting birds illegally disturbed. National F&E rally July 9th on Sackville Common, Oxford EF: planning future actions.

Contact LETTIE 0435 34797.

TINKERS RIBBLE: Three month reprieve/delay in decision on "Stop Order" on site.

BISHOPS COTFORD: NVDA campaign against local by-pass construction starting soon. More activists needed. Help on any level very useful. Move to NVDA than sitting in a muddy field.

SEFTON COASTAL ROAD (SOUTHPORT):

UPDATE: Planning objections in, but preparation for campaign needed. More info: Bill Joynton (Southport 28871.)
DOVERBRIDGE, E:
PASS: Near Slea-on-Trent. Scheme to start soon. Local women desperate for help with NVDA.

In the last few days the DoT appears to have launched a co-ordinated campaign to put an end to the anti-road protests. Last Wednesday G4 security illegally evicted protesters from Caerden Valley Nature Park where protesters were occupying land threatened by the M66 extension. Then on Friday Release security carried out a similar action on protesters tree-sitting in the path of the Bathaston-Swaleswick bypass, near Solihull Hillside Bath. Information compiled by Road Alert! 0703 237809

M65 Campaign cont from front page

It was a severe case of over policing. The 25 protesters incarcerated in the house or handcuffed to the roof apparently asserted traffic diversions and temporary traffic lights. The obligatory 100 G4 yellowcoats were out in force. About 30 Bailiffs on the whole 'very fluffy': peaceful, tree loving, and they came bearing cups of tea. A court summons from Tar MacGregor was 'returned to sender', together with copies of the UK biodiversity and sustainability strategies. (Penned in the loving hand of a certain J Major).

Actions have included a 60 hour crane sit (without food or water, nice one G4). On 7th June tarmac workers and G4 illegally evicted land held by the protesters. Trees were bulldozed: with their occupants still intact, one person was hurt as they were pulled out of a bulldozer. Other injuries have been sustained as people have fallen out of trees. Spare harnesses anyone? Security on the increase, woodland eviction could come any time now. There are still 12 miles of beautiful countryside to squat.

0524 848407 for details. National Day of Action 9th July call Road Alert! 0703 237809

THE RETURN OF TWYFORD DOWN

Well, it had to happen, we were just wondering when. The first carriageway of the M3 extension is about to open, which marks the return of actions at Twyford Downs. There was a MASS TRESPASSORY ASSEMBLY at TWYFORD DOWN, near Winchester, on 2 July. This peaceful event was planned as (and became) the largest anti-Criminal Justice Bill event of the Summer attracting 1500 people from across the country. The Rally started at Pileus Pitt Valley, near St. Catherine's Hill, at 10pm. Speakers included Benny Rothman (of Kinder Scout fame), and people from No M11 Liberty, Save Our Solihull, Roads Alert!, Freedom Network, Squall, Shelter, Hunt Saboteurs Assoc, CND and Greenpeace. The Rally was followed by a mass trespass on the work site. After the trespass there was a spontaneous move down onto the A33 which is alongside the M3, protesters then marched down both carriageways, stopping traffic in both directions. The march was attended by the police, who were, for once pretty low-key, many were serenaded by drummers and dancers. Further information available from Road Alert! (0703 237809) or Freedom Network 071 738 4721.

The 54 people on the original injunction list way back in 1993 have been served with papers pending the Department of Transport action to recover the £1.9 million (DoT figure) "lost through the actions of protesters at the site". Through a raffle issued last year, the individuals are financially liable for the actions of all protesters! The cutting opening date is still not known, rumour has it that structural faults in a flyover may delay the opening of the first carriageway for months!

World Bank: 50 Years is enough!

This July, the World Bank is celebrating 50 years of existence: 50 years of imposing inappropriate development on some of the most vulnerable places and people in the world. Its existing projects will ravage, (or forcibly evict) 2 million people, and cause untold environmental devastation.

To wish the World Bank an Unhappy Birthday, we're holding a number of actions, beginning with workshops and action in July and leading to hundreds of people going down to Madrid to give the World Bank conference some nasty surprises... On 12th July, from 12 midday until late evening, workshops will be held at Coalton in Brighton, with speakers from Chile and the Philippines, the Ecologist and the M11, videos and discussions. All you ever wanted to know about the World Bank... In the evening the workshops will focus on preparations for the actions the next day. Everyone welcome. For more details call Kate on 0845 201786 or Ales on 0258 473476

Levitt Hage

Levitt Hage, a disused limestone quarry at Warmworth, Doncaster, is now ready to be used as a landfill site.

The trees, flora and fauna which reclaimed the quarry over the last forty years, have been destroyed to make a level floor, two membranes have been laid on the quarry floor to try to reduce seepage into the watercourses. The River Don, which is within its waters of the quarry, will be devastated as far as Hall, due to the inevitable seepage and other such disasters associated with landfill sites. The south side of the Don is likely to be used as a dump site (an area of about 2 square miles from the Hall to Conisborough). However, as the Hall site can only take a believed 2 year amount of waste from Derbyshire, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster consumers (around 1 million people), there will then be 'need' for more sites and the availability of the other disused quarries on the north bank of the river, and other sites, will be investigated.

People are urged to look at the site, and get in touch with Doncaster EPI to help resist this madness.

British Aerospace In Court

Back in February about 20 people descended on the BAe Warton factory (just up the road from Preston) for an afternoon of protest in the freezing cold snow.

Six people entered the factory, 4 of whom have since been charged. Rachel, Michael, Kate and Chris have been jointly charged with intent to cause criminal damage. The charges relate to the alleged possession of paint, paint brushes, a spray can, marker pens and the ultimate tool for criminal damage - those papers.

The Warton Four (not to be confused with group 4) have had several trips to Lytham St Anne's magistrates court to ensure that their case will be heard in the Crown Court. The four are now on bail until a date is set - this will be before the end of June, and could quite well be much later in the year. The case will be heard in Preston. There will be a vigil outside the court whilst the Warton Four attempt to show the jury that British Aerospace are indeed guilty of crimes against humanity, will be sent out to those who have indicated their interest. More information: "Stop the Hawk Deal" c/o One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS

Library Times

Do or Die, after a prolonged absence, this radical mag did not do and file and is back. For your 48 page copy send 80p plus see to DSHA, Box 8, Greenleaf Bookshop, 23 Colston St, Bristol, Avon BS1 5BR. Contributions to South Downs EPI, Chichester to D. Carter

Oxford EPI LEAF (Liberator), The League (March) EPI all produce their own Action News. Forgive Us Our Transgressions have produced their first newsletter - available from Leeds EPI. Stop the Hawk Deal! - loads of info about British Aerospace, and the arms race generally from the direct action group targeting the multi-national that intend to kill people available from "Stop the Hawk Deal", c/o One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS.

NUNE-TIME, a new non-nuclear-based action forum has just come out. Issue one is the full story of the autonomous actions which occurred at six nuclear power stations across Britain - something the conventional press chose to ignore. It is similar in tone to the Action Update promising No Nuclear Compromise available from 0282 866303 (wifex).

ROADS

The Roadbreaker, Newsletter of the No M11 Link Campaign. Price 25p (plus p+p). Available from Arch 271, Grove Green Road, Leytonstone, E11 4LJ

The Fastlane, Newspapers for regeneration by conservation not development. Quarterly forum for the Alliance Against the M11 motor way. Send large S.A.E. and 30p to 70 Filbeck Road, E11 1AF

CONCRETE ACTION A new newsletter sharing information, resources, contacts and campaign skills between people across Europe fighting Trans-European Networks (TENs). It hopes to be one of several ways of improving communication and co-ordination between activists working on apparently isolated road schemes. The next two issues will be produced by Kate at Oxford EPI. Send stuff for next issue by July 14th. For 30p copies write to Christiana Moe at Nature and Youth, Tongst. 24, 0185 Oslo, Norway; fax 47 22245494. Roads Alert NYDA (Non-Violent Direct Action) Information Pack out very shortly - 2 to cover post & copying secures your copy at their address on the back. Roads Alert Action Alerts issue one is out, and it is intended that it will come out about every 4-6 weeks. For your copy send 80p SAE to: Roads Alert are currently compiling an urgent action bulletin which goes out every week (current issue No 5) and needs to be reworked. They are sending it out by fax to places which can network it, to get on the fast lat phone FAX VIDEOS

Undercurrents No.1 produced by Small World Video - has been out for a couple of months now and contains 71 minutes of direct action in six films of varying lengths. It costs just £8 waged/£6 unwaged + p+p and bulk rates are very reasonable and are useful for raising money for your group action. Small World Media Ltd, 3 Ashmore Road, London, N16 5DF Tel: 071 267 1880, Fax 071 267 4663, e-mail: Smallworld@gn.apc.org

Direct Action Video produced by Earth Arc in Oxford, has also been out a while, but is still available at £5 incl p & p, at Oxford EPI event.

M11: OUT OF THEIR TREES?

Reliance Security Ltd. showed themselves to be the lawless, spineless bastards that they are on 13th June, when at 7.30am, 50-60 of them illegally evicted the bender site at Leytonston. The guards, generally a social mixture of BNP members and Hippie-bashers, worked out their mutual hatred on the semi-sleeping tree-sitters. One bender inhabitant was stabbed in the hand by a guard. So much for reasonable force.

The site had been permanently occupied for over 5 months, with several tree houses and other dwellings constructed. There had been 2 false alarms prior to the eviction. Third time unlucky.

There were several arrests, including that of a 14 year old girl, and one person charged with Indecent exposure after he was forcefully removed from his sleeping bag minus trousers.

Police and bailiffs later surrounded the site, which was semi-wild woodland, including a 200 year old Yew, before the tree 'surgeons' trashed it.

Insta Leytonstonians attempted to reclaim their land, and eventually there was a stand-off between the two sides, but not before many of the trees were lost.

This is the latest in a growing number of illegal evictions, a matter clearly of concern to those genuinely concerned with the rule of law in this country.

Reliance have breached Section 8 of the 1977 Criminal Law Act. What are the legal consequences of this? Could the Director of Public Prosecutions tell us?

Another aspect of the M11 campaign is the Claremont road site, which includes the home of 63 year old Dolly, who has asked to be barricaded in the house she was born in. The fortification of this street really is quite superb, with trenches, drawbridges, and plenty of sleeping dragons (basically holes in the walls), plus lots of tricks up their sleeves that we cannot disclose. To show everyone that these are real houses with real people inside with real lives, the contents of many of the houses have been reassembled out in the street. The sofa may be a bit soggy now but what the hell. So as you walk down the street, (which has been shut off to traffic) you can see a kitchen, living room etc. Perhaps a contender for Britain's weirdest street, unless you know different.

Operation Snowball is still going on. This consists of direct actions every Monday morning, and is the fore-runner to Operation Roadblock II. There is more than enough going on at all other times so please get involved.

S O L S B U R Y HILL

So far, after 2 months, Amey have barely been able to construct their compound or access routes. In a 2 - month period, Amey have carried out just 1 month's work. They are still not even in possession of most of the fields they plan to destroy, some of them are still being held by locals who refuse to accept the compulsory purchase orders. Most of the areas threatened by the road remain intact.

The office is still in the garden at 37 Ballbrook Lane, where the DoT has used dirty tricks to try to get rid of protesters. Eviction notices for an entirely different (unoccupied) piece of land have been used. Contractors intend to put a cutting through the garden, but this camp is still safe. The main bender camp has moved further up the hill onto common land.

Avon County Council have now demanded that all road construction should stop and a public inquiry opened. This is due to an increase in public awareness, newly-published proof that the 'bypasses' are part of a euro-corridor, and claims that the roads will push Bath City Air pollution above EC regulatory levels - making the roads illegal.

RELiance SECURITY SERVICES LTD. (Tel. 0272 235102, Surety House, Unit 10, Third Way, Avonmouth, General manager S.West: Simon Scarborough) have been breaking limbs, bruising and groping women and stamping on 10 yr olds.

What is particularly reassuring is that there has been none of this disgusting bias normally exhibited. No, the orders have obviously come in, "remove all people from the site, BY WHAT EVER MEANS NECESSARY". So, not just those with dreadlocks receive the attention. Admirably they attack everyone. One has a severely broken foot, a photographer with a thick lip and a bleeding nose. So, please show your appreciation at this wonderful display of breaking down the class barrier. Also reassuring is the presence of what appears to be a private detective agency on the site. The occupants of a new white unmarked Landrover have been videoing people on the hill. It might be illuminating to reveal the mentality we have to deal with. Whilst one protester was in hospital he was talking to someone whose son had been in Group 4 at Weyford, and learnt that many of these thugs were joining up for the sole purpose of 'hippie beheading'.

Bath EPI says: "Why not move down to the beautiful south-west, bender and aquat accommodation provided. People are always welcome at the Action camps, especially anybody with useful campaign skills - office and action skills. Bring what you hope to find - e.g., D-lights, arm tubes, etc."

Whitcroft Site

On Friday 10th (our national day of action) at 5am, 50 police, 50 security guards and 2 bailiffs moved in to evict Whitcroft, an 8 acre area of broadleaf woodland. Trees at Whitcroft and Sally Woods were chainsawed. Arrests included the local ferrier from the farm opposite Whitcroft, accused of head butting a security guard! Both woods were home to owls, bats, an historical well and springs that lead in to the famous hot springs of Bath. Many badly injured birds were on the woodland floor, protesters were stopped from saving them. Later the debris was set alight, endangering tree occupiers and local residents with the toxic fumes from plastic, asbestos etc. 12 people remained up trees in hammocks, trees connected by high tension wire cable. In fact, more people were occupying the trees by the time the eviction finished than at the beginning of the day! The tree sitters are still there - about 30 trees are still defended at Whitcroft. Security have tried each day to get diggers and cranes into the area but it is barricaded and they have been turned back every day by protesters.

Kill the Bill is Immortal

As the campaign against the Criminal Justice Bill enters its 7th week, we can announce that 57 events that we know about have taken place which are presently legal, but will be criminal offences after the Bill comes in. Most of the events have been anti-roads protests and peace camps, but there have also been incredibly diverse groups of people getting involved. There have been protests against the lack of rights and access for disabled people, against putting asylum seekers in detention centres, protests against traffic in Oxford, against the World Bank in London, against the Narmada dam at the Indian Embassy, against the closure of an unemployed workers' centre in Edinburgh, against 'Needles' in Croydon, and of course, against the CJB itself. In Leeds on 18th June a record-breaking game of TWISTER was the highlight of 'Bill's Carnival', attractions also included frisbee throwing, music and juggling.

Keep up the activity.

The following is the Government's planned timetable for the progress of the CJ Bill through Parliament.

June 18th Committee stage ends
June 30th Report stage (lasts 4 days)
July 18th-19th Third reading
July 25th Returns to Commons (for final vote)
Royal Assent within the week.

Parliament goes on holiday at the beginning of August. This is therefore a tight schedule, but the Government will be prepared to go to some length to stick to it as the Bill is supposedly a flagship.

See also publications page 7

Eire EF!

We have recently sent Action Updates to a number of addresses in Southern Ireland. There seems to be a lot of interest, but nobody who has actually set up a group there. If you are reading this, and want to get some contacts for Southern Ireland, we have them, and would be glad to send them to you.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE EF! AU.

Please send me the next 5 copies of the EFT Action Update, starting with no. 12. Here is my MINIMUM £2 not in cash, cheques payable to EARTH FIRST ACTION UPDATE. Donations above £2, for those who can afford it, enable us to fund enquiries and free subscriptions to Free Information Networks, Libraries, Grassroots & Community Groups, etc, send more if you can.

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M. Howard M. P. says: in the interests of your own security, you may be advised to use a false name.

Disclaimer.....

This is a compilation of actions we have been and. Remember it is for educational purposes only. Manchester EFT neither condones nor condemns anything in this publication. This is the honourous spirit intended.....

Scottish Nuclear Offices Invaded by Protesters

Anti-nuclear protesters barricaded themselves inside several offices within Scottish Nuclear's headquarters in East Kilbride in May. The occupation lasted nearly 3 hours and marked the 10th anniversary of Chernobyl and highlighted the danger of nuclear power in this country. Shortly after 5am, 25 members of the recently formed Scotland Against A Radioactive Environment arrived at the offices. 10 of the protesters got in and made their way to a number of offices in the upper levels, including that of the Director of Safety. Once inside, they barricaded the doors, using chains and locks, before handcuffing themselves to chairs and desks. Outside the new building, activists tied chains around the entrance doors in an attempt to stop the 300 employees getting in.

As the occupation continued, more police officers were brought in. A short time later, the demonstrators ended their protest. A Strathclyde Police spokesman confirmed that 8 of the protesters had been taken to the local police office and questioned. They were later released. Afterwards, Ma Irene Cairns, head of corporate communications at Scottish Nuclear, said that it had been a 'small and peaceful' protest and that Scottish Nuclear would be likely to be re-examining its security measures at the East Kilbride headquarters.

A SCARE intend to bring about a nuclear free Scotland through non-violent direct action.

G.S.N SUMMER CAMP

July 28th- August 2nd

We've found a field and a farmhouse somewhere in the Welsh mountains between Cardiff and Swansea. If you apply to us, we'll tell you how to get there!!

Please let us know:

Any ideas of activities/workshops you would like to do at the camp and how many people you are bringing. It's gonna be ACE, so save your Place...at the one and only, the annual South Wales G.S.N Summer Camp!!!

Cardiff Green Group
Cardiff University Students Union,
Park Place, Cardiff,
Cymru